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Workers' Dreadnought

YOUR MATE

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ON BOARD A GERMAN BATTLESHIP.

A fragment translated from the German of the play "Seeschlacht" (Sea Battle), by Reinhard Goering.

Sailors are turning in for a few hours' sleep. The fifth and first, who cannot sleep, try to solve the problem of their destiny.

Fifth Sailor:
These limitless waters
And the everlasting sky above, rouse the soul
And leave us no rest.
The spirit is awake when we look out over the waves
And when the wind
Sings in the tackle. . . .

What our country asks of us
We must do, mustn't we?

First Sailor:
Of course.

Fifth Sailor:
Is it always right
What our country asks of us?

First Sailor:
We must do what it commands,
Because we owe everything to our country.

Fifth Sailor:
What do the very poor owe their country?

First Sailor:
Much more than can be told
In words.

Fifth Sailor:
Life is beautiful and sweet. . . .
Youth dances madly in the meadows.
Then suddenly, at the beat of drums,
All is over!
Life is over.
One after the other we go down before Death.
For two years we have been cruising about here,
For two years we have been cruising about here on the water,
Blind and mad, killing, and finding death.
Not one of us remembers another.
Not one of us knows anything,
Not one can do anything
But kill and die.

First Sailor:
If our country demands it, so must it be.

Fifth Sailor:
Dying is not so bad.
But who are we, and who were we? . . .
Why does our country demand?

First Sailor:
Because it must be.

Fifth Sailor:
Might it not be that madness reigns
Over a whole people? . . .
Must we perform
What madmen demand?

First Sailor:
We must.

Fifth Sailor:
What are ye fighting for now?

First Sailor:
For the freedom of the Seas.

THE BOURGEOIS SOCIALIST

By Peter Kropotkin.

Ever since the Socialist idea began to sink into the minds of the workers, interesting facts have been obvious. The worst enemies of Socialism have realised that the best method of overcoming it is by pretending they are its supporters. They have hastened to declare that they, too, are Socialists.

"But really I am also a Socialist, just like you!" they say. "Social conditions, savings banks for the people, the passing of laws for the protection of the workers—on all these questions I am absolutely of one mind with you! But, you know, we mustn't upset everything in a day, we must accomplish it quite slowly."

These tactics have grown common during the last few years. In countries where there was universal franchise it was sufficient to mention Socialism at an election meeting for the candidate to declare that he was an adherent of "moderate Socialism"—that is, of the Socialism of the Parliamentarian swindler of the people variety. Leading statesmen declared, more or less openly, that they were "Socialists," and that public opinion expected from them the "solution of the social question" Ministers of all denominations were of one mind with them, and announced that "true Socialism" is to be found in the bosom of the Christian Church.

In short, they are all, all, Socialists! Usurers who speculate on the increasing price of bread in order to buy jewels for their wives; capitalists who allow their women workers to die of consumption and condemn the children of their workers to die from lack of nourishment; Social-Democratic ministers and police officials who execrate, throw into prison, and even execute the pioneers and heralds of freedom and social expropriation; policemen who arrest and torture the pioneers; elected persons who every day in Parliament tread Socialism under foot and do the work of the ruling class; all, all do these things only to hasten the "Triumph of Socialism."

There are really still Socialists who are stupid enough to break out into a scream of triumph at the sight of this farce!

We are saddened, and not gladdened, by this sight. It demonstrates to us, on the one hand, that the bourgeoisie has sworn to undermine Socialism, and on the other hand it proves to us that those who formerly passed as Socialists now leave Socialism in the lurch. They act in opposition to the whole fundamental principle of Socialism, and join the camp of the bourgeoisie. Yet, in order to cover their sudden change of front, they retain the name of Socialists, whereby they bourgeoisify the whole movement.

What was really the significant fundamental idea of Socialism?

The necessity of doing away with the wage system, private ownership of land, houses, raw material, and means of production—in a word, of social capital. Whoever did not recognise this fundamental idea was not considered a Socialist.

"Do you recognise that it is necessary to do away with private property, and to expropriate, in the interests of all, the present owners of social capital? Do you feel the necessity of living according to these principles?" Everyone who wished to join us was asked this question before he was greeted as a Socialist.

Naturally, when one asked this question, one did not enquire if the candidate thought it necessary to abolish private property in two hundred or two thousand years! One did not trouble oneself about the idle question of what would happen in two hundred years. When one spoke of the abolition of capitalist private ownership, one recognised that this step was necessary to-day; that in all one's life, deeds and public actions, one must only work for that. Thirty years ago the Socialists said (and those who have remained Socialists are still saying): "The next revolution in society must not be only a simple change of Government, which at best will merely be followed by some reforms in the Government machine: it must be the social revolution!"

This means that it is necessary to prepare for the expropriation at the opportunity afforded by the next revolution—this was the basic principle of the Socialists; this differentiated them from all those who merely recognise the need for a certain improvement in the lot of the workers, and who yet sometimes go so far as to admit that Communism is the ideal of the future society, but who will not in any case agree that one must seek to bring about this Communism at once, as the only way of liberating the working people.

All this has now changed.

On the one hand, within the heart of the bourgeoisie a nucleus of adventurers has been formed, who realise that without taking the label of "Socialist," they can never succeed in climbing the steps of political power. Therefore, they must find a means of being received into the ranks of the Socialist Movement without adopting Socialist principles. On the other hand, there are those who realise that the best way to curb Socialism is to enter its ranks, to corrupt its principles, to lead its activities along false paths.

Unfortunately, some Socialists, or some who used to call themselves Socialists, have desired to surround themselves with large numbers of people. Under the influence of such persons, whoever was prepared to pay the membership fee was given the name of Socialist. Party leaders, greedy for political office in the present state, hastened to open wide the door to alleged "converts," and to facilitate in every way their entry into the Party. Such leaders themselves disowned the basic principle of Socialism, and under their direction a new kind of so-called Socialists was formed, who have only retained the name of the old Party.

A Russian police official told one of our friends that he also admired the Communist ideal; but since that ideal could only become a reality in 200, or perhaps 500 years, our

friend must be imprisoned in the meantime Party leaders of to-day declare that the to punish him for his Communist propaganda. Like this police official, the Social-Democratic abolition of private property, and the social expropriation of the capitalists, must take place in the far-distant future; that Socialism is a romance, a utopia; that one must first of all concern oneself with "attainable reforms." Those who stick to the fixed idea of Socialism they declare to be the worst enemies of the working class. "There can be no question," say these Social-Democratic leaders, "of expropriating the land and industrial capital of the ruling employing class. Do not let us prepare beforehand the acquisition of the factories through the workers, the land through the peasants, but the acquisition of the State and State power through the elected representatives.

As if the bourgeoisie, so long as it remains in possession of capital, would allow them to try Socialist experiments!

The results of this turnover are at once apparent.

When one has anything to do at the present day with one of these new kind of "Socialists"—they call themselves Social-Democrats—one no longer knows whether one is speaking to a gentleman like the police official or to a real Socialist. It is sufficient to agree that one day—it may be in a thousand years—every empire will be in common ownership, and that in the meantime one will give one's vote to someone who will advocate in Parliament the shortening of the working hours and other little reforms. Thus the difference between the Socialism of the aforenamed police officer and Messrs. the Social-Democrats disappears. They are both Socialists! The worker who has not time to study thirty newspapers all at once becomes confused, and no longer knows where his Party comrades and where his enemies are to be found. That is why to-day he must undergo such hard probings and blood-lettings. Before he recognises who are his friends and who are his enemies he will not arrive at an understanding of the position.

AN EXTRACT FROM SPILLER.

NEW METHODS OF SCIENTIFIC PROCEDURE, 1922.

(c) Since the civilised state is an environmental datum, a human being if left to him or herself, or with others who are completely uncultured, would not be appreciably more cultured than are the other highly intelligent animals.

(d) Man, because he is a specio-psychic being, is, in propitious circumstances, capable of assimulating virtually the substance of any civilisation, however advanced.

(e) Since man's self-culturability is virtually zero, and his capacity for being cultured is virtually infinite, there is virtually an infinite distance between the minimally and maximally cultured man, and consequently any difference between any two individuals in respect of being cultured (Zulu in his kraal, or professor in his chair) are traceable, first and foremost, to the circumstances in which they are placed, which is equivalent to stating that human beings are by birth, and because they are mentally species—dependent beings, almost indefinitely more like than unlike each other morally, intellectually, and practically, etc.

To summarise. Our interim statement involves that since culture is a progressive panhuman product, humanity is capable of achieving in the course of the ages virtually everything; the individual, as such, nothing; and accordingly our theoretical aim is satisfied when we learn that all moral, intellectual and practical distinctions between colour and race of peoples or persons are, for all intents, due to specio-cultural and not inborn causes.

ECHOES FROM AIPOTU.

A wide, well-kept road, bordered by flowerbeds and fruit-trees, with seats at intervals.

A Bishop, in old and dusty clothes, is seated in the sun.

A stout lady, of uncertain age, with golden hair, is coming slowly along the road. She is dressed richly, with considerable scantiness and many jewels, but she wears a pair of very high-heeled shoes; and through her almost transparent dress shows an old pair of corsets, several bones of which are broken. She bears herself haughtily, unaware that her dress is fastened crookedly at the back. She takes out a powder-puff and a pocket-mirror, and turns aside to adjust her facial toilet before approaching the Bishop.

The Bishop: Sit down, madam. I observe that, like myself, you decline to habituate yourself to this unholy state.

Mrs. Grundy (presenting her card): Indeed, my lord, it is a blessing to meet one of your cloth. You are the first minister of the Church I have seen for ages.

The Bishop: Alas! my colleagues are fast deserting the faith, and even I must cease to bear sartorial witness presently. I find it impossible to get more clothes of the accepted pattern. These I am wearing are the offcasts of a backslider. The clothing soviets refuse to supply clerical dress. The delegates' committee, before whom I appeared with my petition, jeered at me in most unseemly fashion. I was actually told that if I wanted that sort of garments I should learn to make them myself. The chairman said the nearest thing they could do for me was a Russian blouse or a Norfolk suit of Harris tweed.

Mrs. Grundy: What impudence! Neither religion nor morality are respected nowadays! I am driven to use tooth-powder for my face. I cannot procure further supplies of the sort of shoes to which I am accustomed, neither can I get corsets. The unsexed women of to-day don't wear them. They say their bodies are too muscular to require support—brazen creatures! Veils they won't wear, so none are made; my last I was obliged to discard yesterday. Maids are unobtainable; the lower orders have simply disappeared. Both religion and morality are abandoned! There is no protection for virginity—no economic check upon procreation, no social conventions, not a single example of those regrettable but necessary institutions termed "houses of ill-fame." Your lordship will agree with me that they are necessary to protect the virtuous, however much we may deplore it. What is the result? How many do we find now of the mature maiden ladies who were so common in our youth? Very few of them. And those that exist? Are they passing their lives in that genteel retirement in which they were so observant of my precepts? On the contrary, they are rushing into work all unsuited to a proper womanhood. They have become blue stockings and mechanics! Degraded tomboys! As to the women who become mothers, not content with discarding the legal tie, they refuse to have large families. The lower orders, who are so necessary to the maintenance of a leisured upper class—as I said before—have ceased to exist! It is a monstrous state of affairs! My business is ruined. I haven't a client left.

The Bishop: You have my sympathy, madam. I was always one of your devotees, for I recognised your immense worth to society, your great influence in preserving respect for morality and religion also—to a lesser extent, no doubt; morality was your first care, but yours was also a religious influence, and an important one; but for you the churches would have closed long before they did, for the women would have taken to reading serious works instead of problem novels.

But you have aroused my curiosity. I am sure you will pardon me. I had not recognised you as a fellow professional. I had thought your services were voluntary—the proprieties. I had thought you a lady of private means—purely repaid for your services prompted entirely by your exalted zeal for virtue by the interest of the thing. It brought you into contact with so much that was delightfully spicy. Come, now, even a lady of your rigid principle must have appreciated that! There was always a seat in Court for you in the "cause celèbre"—your presence was rightly considered indispensable. And what secrets you got to know! But, pardon me, if you would just explain how the professional remuneration was arranged. I never remember to have come in contact with that—er—that aspect of the case.

Mrs. Grundy: I acted in every instance from a sense of duty. I was in no sense dependent on my profession—please do not think that; indeed, I had an assured income from the National Debt and a number of other solid enterprises; such noted munition firms as Vickers and Beardmores, beside a number of those protective institutions in which I am so much interested—that little venture of Sir F——, the Piccadilly place of Miss Queenie G., and ever so many others. Of course, as time went on I increased my holdings in the more stable concerns. I had my flutter in oil, too. Yes, I had my little stakes both in Royal Dutch, Shell and in Persians.

As to my own profession, of course it was altogether delicate and confidential. Chaperonage was one big branch of it. Aspirants to social entry requiring the services of a titled chaperone, and commission to be obtained for the introductions; society women requiring discreet chaperones with the virtues of deaf mutes. Matrimonial introductions covered another large field. Divorces, infidelities and indiscretions past and present, including confidential intelligence and private detective work, of course. That branch kept me busiest. It was necessary that the bonds of matrimony should be preserved by allowing reasonable latitude, and those relaxations which I was always ready to facilitate in proper circumstances, as well as through the loophole of the Divorce Court. It was necessary that scandal, exposure, and divorce should be applied in appropriate instances, with or without social ostracism, as the case might be. Otherwise, society would have ignored the marriage laws altogether. Of course I had my special arrangements for the middle and lower classes, graduated in accordance with their income and social functions. One had to be stricter with the lower orders. If, in my judgment, they aped their social superiors too closely, the Courts were always most obliging in reinforcing my authority by meting out sentence for perjury or some other misdemeanour. I assure you I was a mainstay of the Courts in many ways. The learned profession fully recognised my services.

The Bishop: I understand you, madam; yours has been a valuable work.

Mrs. Grundy: There is no sense of possession now: it is altogether lost. The legal contract is dispensed with. Even jealousy scarcely exists, and curiosity, except in purely scientific questions, has become extinct. People have actually ceased to interest themselves in other people's private affairs. Tell a young woman that her friend has lived with half-a-dozen men, she merely yawns at you and says: "Of course, she's so clever; I don't wonder that lots of people want to be with her, but I'm not the least bit interested in other people's business."

Inform a woman that the man she used to live with has found another partner, she answers: "I know; I'm sure they'll be awfully happy! We drifted apart, you know. I'm so glad he's found someone else." People thought more of a scandal than anything at one time; but now—— Upon my word! Look at those children! Inhibitory training doesn't exist in this degraded world!

Mrs. Grundy rushes across the road to a boy and girl who are picking cherries.

Mrs. Grundy: How dare you pick fruit that doesn't belong to you! I shall fetch a policeman!

Boy: What's a policeman? You are funny! What do you mean by "belong"? The trees belong to everyone, I should say; unless they belong to the earth, where they grow.

Girl: Why shouldn't we pick cherries? There are plenty for everyone who comes here. Even the birds have more than they want; they just take bites out of a few cherries and then leave them!

The Bishop: God sees all, my child; nothing you do is hidden from his vengeance. Do not fall into the sin of gluttony.

Boy: I'd be ill if I eat too many; is that what you mean?

Girl: He doesn't mean anything: he's talking about some old mythology that people used to believe. He must be practising to act in a play. I'm sorry I didn't understand you at first, comrade. What funny old clothes you've got; are they for the play? (Whispers to the boy, giggling): Why has he got his collar back to front? She's got cotton-reels under her feet and something funny round her waist.

The Bishop (raising his hands): The sins of the fathers!

Mrs. Grundy: Be off, you insolent girl!

The Girl: We don't want to stay any longer.

Boy and girl run away laughing.

The Bishop (taking out his watch): I must hurry away to keep an appointment to appear before the Central Executive Committee of the Society for the Compensation of Private Enterprise and Ownership. May I suggest, madam, that you should also lay your case before that distinguished body?

Mrs. Grundy: With pleasure, my lord.

Curtain.

II.

The board-room of the Central Executive Committee for the Compensation of Private Enterprise and Ownership.

At a table: Mr. Ramsay Macdonald (chairman), Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Snowden, Messrs. J. H. Thomas, Arthur Henderson, and Clynes, Lloyd George, Lady Waldorf Astor, and Lord Curzon.

In the visitors' seats: Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Winston Churchill.

Mr. Snowden rises: I beg to move that the abolition of Capitalism without compensation to private ownership and enterprise was an outrage which cannot be sufficiently condemned, and for which there must now be suitable redress. There are some 80,000 persons who used to pay super-tax on incomes over £2,000 year. All these, and many more, have no doubt been deprived of rent, interest and profit. They should all be compensated in some way.

Mr. Sidney Webb: The compensation will amount to a very large sum. It will require the appointment of many assessors.

Mrs. Webb: A state of society in which there is no private property was hitherto inconceivable. It is therefore impolitic, and must be so modified as to re-admit the principle and practice of living by owning.

Mr. Webb: Parliamentary government must be re-established.

Mr. J. H. Thomas: The Monarchy must be re-established, but the position of the railway companies must be assured first.

Enter the Bishop and Mrs. Grundy, preceded by the Usher.

Usher: His Lordship the Bishop of Falsity and Mrs. Grundy.

Mr. Macdonald (to the Bishop): You are here by appointment, I understand, but we have a number of more important cases dealing with titles to actual property. There is, of course, the question of the ecclesiastical lands. That will receive attention; but our faith has had many martyrs, and will produce many more: we need not bother about them. Nevertheless, it is intolerable that religious teaching should be excluded from the schools. We shall consider what can be done about that when the case of the landlords and industrial capitalists has been dealt with.

Regarding the case of this lady——

Lady Astor: I will champion her: we need more matrimonial stringency; the marriage laws must be re-established, divorce must be made difficult. I am on the side of the home. I am on the side of the Bishop, too. The lower orders must be put back in their place, and it cannot be done without the Bishop's help. He must teach them it is their duty to return to the station in which God placed them originally.

Mrs. Snowden: I agree with Lady Astor: I never was able to discover the objection to domestic service. I pray from the bottom of my soul that domestic service and the Church may be re-established.

Mr. J. H. Thomas: I move that compensation for the railway companies be considered first.

Mr. Lloyd George: The churches have a great mission, but we have prior commitments.

Lord Robert Cecil: I shall always demand that the Church and morality take precedence until I am co-opted on to the Committee.

Mr. Henderson: I have always kept in touch with the religious element. I have probably spoken at more Brotherhood meetings and P.S.A.s than anyone in the country. I always endeavoured to maintain peaceful relations between Capital and Labour and to buttress the old order. At the same time, I recognise our inability to use anything more than moral suasion at the present time. I propose a deputation.

Lord Curzon: No negotiations!

Mr. Winston Churchill: Put me on the Committee, and I'll soon raise an army against them, if I have to go to Africa to get it.

Lord Curzon: I'll agree to nothing short of an ultimatum.

Children rush in and pelt all present with flowers, shouting:

"Ai! Ai! Midsummer Day!"

"Ai! Ai! Anniversary Day!"

"The Red Revolution of Midsummer Day,

"Till the end of the world we'll remember alway."

The Committee, visitors, Bishop, and Mrs. Grundy rush out, chased by children, who try to fling garlands of flowers around them.

THE MODERN SKELETON.

By Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

As kings of old in riotous royal feasts,
Among the piled-up roses and the wine,
Beside the costly viands bought with blood,
Amid the music and the dancing girls,
The pearls and gold and barbarous luxury,
Used to show also a white skeleton;—
To make life meeker in the sight of death—
To make joy sweeter by the thought thereof.

So our new kings in their high banqueting,
With the electric lustre unforeseen,
And unimagined costliness of flowers;
Rich wines of price and food as rare as gems.
And all the wondrous waste of artifice;
Midst high-bred elegance and jewelled ease
And beauty of rich raiment, they should set
High before all a sickly pauper child,
To keep the rich in mind of poverty—
The sure concomitant of their estate

LETTERS OF KARL LIEBKNECHT.

Translated from the German by G. B.

July 9th, 1915.

My Dearest,—

I am sitting shivering in the courtyard; flecks of cloud are flying along overhead, and the sunset is dying behind the hills which slope down towards the sea on the north-west; the men, all from Berlin, are writing, playing the Jews' harp, laughing or dancing, according to their respective humour. Just beside me is the entrance to the barn where fifty of us live and sleep. Through the open door I can just catch sight of a few of them, already gone to bed, by the Rembrandtesque light of the candles. All the birds, even the swallows, have disappeared. During the day the air is full of swallows, linnets, finches, blackcaps, wagtails and robins; all come and sing to us from the palings and the wood-stacks. I am just sipping a cup of hot coffee from a saucepan which is boiling in front of me, so now you can picture me to yourself as I find myself at the time of writing.

Ten days gone by, and I have still no news from home. I hope you are well now, and out of the hospital. But you will not be quite well until you get this letter, this bill of health; because, if you can, you must be in Berlin by August 9th to meet me. Take great care of yourself—that is the most important for me. I wonder if the children—I mean to say the boys—are still at Oberwiesenthal.

Now I am in Russia, and without you! And in what circumstances! I cannot describe my state of mind—involuntary instrument of forces which I loathe with all my soul. And for whose interest? But I will speak no more of it. I read a brief account of the meeting of the Party Committee in the "Memeler Dampfboot." This is the only paper which gets here at all early. "Vorwaerts" is coming out again; on what conditions? What further development had our opposition to the leaders of the party? I am anxious to know something recent and definite. Have you any fresh news from your home? Please let me know everything as soon as you can. We shall leave here shortly, but no one knows where we are going. We are always under observation, of course—much good may it do them. We are working very hard, and I am tired out. Sunday is just the same as other days.

Kisses to you, dear, and my best wishes.

Your KARL.

July 29th, 1915.

Dearest Sophie,—

So far I have not been able to get leave. Probably it will all fall through, like the roads here and the roofs of the artistic new buildings we have been putting up. I have heard from Sylvia that she is going to Berlin for a few days at the beginning of August, before leaving for Sweden. You will go with her, if possible; if not, you will follow later. Of course, if I got my leave, and you could be with me, I should be happy. Many thanks for your letters. For three days again I had no post and no papers. We are in an abominable corner here. Hindenburg's operations are being followed with the greatest interest. The tobacco is very good, but the filth is almost unbearable.

If I could only see you soon! I am sitting on a chest in a stable, our present dwelling-place, and writing on a board. The men are lying "in bed" all round me—that is, they are all stretched out on the straw.

Your KARL.

A "fact" may be defined as an "assumption" in closest accord with sifted knowledge, and a "theory" as a proposition about the complete correctness of which full assurance is lacking.

A "fact" in the scientific sense of the word is the "closest" agreement of many observations or measurements of the same phenomena.—Giddings.

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Our View.

The Martyrdom of Mothers.

THE SCOTTISH BOARD OF HEALTH has appointed a committee to inquire why there has been no lessening in seventy years of the proportion of Scottish women who die in childbirth from fever and other causes.

No inquiry is necessary. The most outstanding aggravation of poverty which produces maternity mortality is overcrowding: the "one-roomed house" and the "two-roomed house," so common in Scotland, mean the martyrdom of mothers. In childbirth the tragedy of the mother's environment may be most acute, but the hardships of overcrowding are continuous. The infant suffers with its mother from the unwholesome conditions of the overcrowded household. Statistics show that the infant death-rate rises and falls in conformity with the congestion of population as estimated by the number of people per square mile. A more intensive examination of figures reveals the high infant mortality-rate in the over-populated houses where families are herded together under conditions of poverty which are a standing blot upon present-day civilisation. The Communist way is the only way out.

* * *

The Bulgarian Reactionary Rebellion.

THE PRESENT PARTY GOVERNMENT of Bulgaria has been overthrown by a military uprising of the reactionaries. The rise to power of the present Party has divided the great estates amongst the peasantry, all unworked land has been confiscated, and no one was allowed more than one house. Compulsory labour for one period of eight months and ten days a year for men, and for women one period of four months and ten days a year was added to the ordinary military conscription. The men are employed on road making, construction and agricultural work, the women work in the communes, where they live and receive instruction in domestic work. Release from this compulsory labour could be obtained by a money payment. The Peasant Party Government, moreover, instituted proceedings against those responsible for Bulgaria's part in the Great War.

In the recent elections the Peasants' Party secured 215 out of 246 seats.

Stambulisky, the Prime Minister of the peasants' Government, is accused by his opponents of being a dictator. Like many politicians, he certainly has that tendency. During the elections he announced that he intended to introduce legislation to compel the Communists in each village to hold their property in common and work their land together. The announcement was perhaps meant merely as electoral propaganda, and not intended to be put into practice. Those who have deposed Stambulisky and the peasant party decry Stambulisky as a dictator, but their object is to re-establish the economic and political dictatorship of the landlords and capitalists. The military coup by which the new Government has been established is frankly directed by the reactionary elements to crush the peasants' party and to stamp out the reforms they have introduced for the benefit of the poorer part of the population.

As might be expected, the King of Bulgaria has lent himself to the reactionary uprising, and has signed a ukase appointing the new Government. He is said to have been made to sign; but even a king can refuse to submit to threats if he will.

It is highly unfortunate that the only daily paper which claims to represent the working-class movement of this country in announcing the Bulgarian militarist coup should have given its readers a reactionary and erroneous view of the situation.

On Monday, June 11th, the "Daily Herald's" diplomatic correspondent wrote:

"And it is not surprising, for Mr. Stambulisky has been pursuing exactly the policy which, sooner or later, makes a revolution inevitable. . . . He has been Premier of Bulgaria since 1919, when he came straight from prison to take over the Government from the discredited war-makers. But he has not been content to be Premier. He has made himself a Dictator; and he has driven his opponents to desperation by his methods.

"The imprisonment last year of the bourgeois leaders, on the pretext of trying them for their responsibility for the wars of 1914; the simultaneous persecution of the Communists; the suppression of all political activities; the amazing farce of the election this April, which gave the Premier's Party 215 out of 246 seats. All these things have produced the circumstances in which political revolution—or an attempted political revolution—becomes inevitable."

As to the trial of persons responsible for the war, it is indeed strange that Conscientious Objector Mr. Ewer should refer to that as a pretext. If people are to be tried and punished for anything, it would seem that no crime can be so easily deserving of punishment as that!

As to "the simultaneous persecution of the Communists," it is not for that that the reactionaries have overthrown Stambulisky. Was Stambulisky's persecution of Bulgarian Communists worse than the persecution by other Governments of their more advanced opponents? We think not.

As to "the suppression of all political activities," we wonder where Mr. Ewer got that information. Bulgarian Communist papers have been reaching us regularly, and we have read of great Communist processions and demonstrations.

As to the elections, does Mr. Ewer declare that the elections were falsified? It has been suggested that they may have been, but what sort of witnesses are they who say it?

On June 12th the "Daily Herald" published the opinion of a "prominent Bulgarian diplomat":

> "This movement is a movement to the right, and shows the sanity of the Bulgarian people. There was no justice, endless corruption in the administration, the Press had no freedom, and the Government of Mr. Stambulisky resorted to measures of confiscation that were the chief causes of disorder in my country."

"Confiscation! There you have it in a nutshell; the land of the great proprietors was distributed amongst those who toil on the land.

It should be observed that the "Daily Herald" gave a wrong lead on the Fascist coup in Italy, Mr. Hamilton Fyfe, the editor, declaring that one must admire Mussolini, who had brought about "a bloodless revolution."

When the Bolsheviki took the power, the "Daily Herald" protested in the name of democracy and peace!

* * *

British Government's Part in the Coup.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT is said to have assisted the reactionaries to seize power in Bulgaria. That is probably true. The intervention in Russia was but one of many instances to prove that British Capitalism will act through the British Government in support of the Capitalist principle wherever that principle is threatened. It is suggested that the British Government's interest in assisting the reactionary coup was rather anti-French than pro-reaction, and that it was intended to prevent Bulgaria becoming part of the Little Entente under the influence of France. Such motives and influences may probably have played some part in the intrigue, but we believe that the class struggle provides the real basis of the militarist coup.

It is a significant fact that while the Bulgarian Army numbers only 25,000 by order of the victorious Allies, the same Allies have permitted General Wrangel's 10,000 Russian White Guards to establish themselves in Bulgaria. They can be counted on to fight the Bulgarian peasants, should they attempt a fight for their land.

* * *

Stambulisky and the Labour Party.

UNDOUBTEDLY the Left Communists and Anarchists have serious things to say of Stambulisky's Government—just the sort of things that the same people said of the Government of Second International "Comrades" Ebert Scheidemann and Noske when it held sway in Germany.

In Jambol, Bulgaria, on March 16th, the police fired on an Anarchist meeting held to protest against the disarming of the workers. The people retaliated. Cavalry were brought up. The wounded and those who had been taken prisoner were killed, and some of the prisoners who were told they might go free were fired on by a machine-gun, then stabbed to make sure they were dead. Many corpses were buried during the night, or thrown into the river.

Thus the Stambulisky Reform Government made itself the tool of the reaction to stop the further advancement of Labour from economic enslavement. Having allowed the military to crush the Left, it is now itself crushed by the military reaction.

Allowing for the more speedy resort to fire-arms which takes place in the East, the same thing will happen here when Labour comes to power. The workers, expecting an improvement in their conditions, will turn to the Left. The Labour Party, unable to alter the position of the workers without overthrowing Capitalism, will see its popularity departing and the growth of Left influences. Angry with the Left, and spurred on by the reaction, the Labour Government will persecute the Left. Then either the Left will be crushed and the Workers' Movement broken—in which case the reaction will easily turn out the Labour Government—or the Left will triumph and Capitalism will be overthrown. In the meantime, on, on, on with the propaganda of pure, free Communism—our only hope. Work always for the Soviets, the workers' shield against bureaucracy.

* *

Soviet Government versus British Government

SOVIET RUSSIA has gradually climbed down to the British ultimatum. The British are to fish within three miles of the Russian shore, Mrs. Davidson and Mrs. Stan Harding are to get £13,000 in compensation, the Soviet Government will sign the pledge dictated by Lord Curzon not to carry on or assist propaganda. If the pledge is kept, the C.P.G.B., and all the Third International parties in Britain and in British Colonies, Dependencies, and Dominions, will lose their subsidies. The one question at issue is that of certain Soviet Government representatives who are said to have assisted revolutionaries in Persia and Afghanistan. Lord Curzon demands that these officials be transferred to other posts. The prestige of the Government officials is at stake, and the Soviet Government demands an impartial inquiry as to whether these officials have in fact been guilty of propaganda. If they were good Socialists they must, of course, have done propaganda: that was their first and highest duty. Socialist duty is not, however, compatible with peace and trade with Capitalism. Therefore, the

Soviet Government denies, and when driven to the last ditch will end by forbidding propaganda by its officials.

* * *

Jim Larkin's Latest.

JIM LARKIN and his adherents have taken possession of the headquarters of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union. Larkin and James Connolly were the pioneers of the Union, and we believe the majority of the members will not be displeased that Larkin has stepped in without waiting for the ceremony of election at an annual conference.

The law, as administered by the Free Statists, will no doubt be set in motion on behalf of the late officials to dislodge Larkin and his friends and prevent them using the Union funds. If, however, Larkin follows a policy of vigorous action, and if a fair proportion of the members are ready for such a policy, as is probably the case, Larkin and his friends will make headway without either the Union war chest or its offices.

Meanwhile, the Waterford strike is the centre of revolt. To raise the Soviets in that, as has already been done in thirty-five other strikes in Ireland, and to arouse from that centre a movement that will spread throughout Ireland; that is the great task before Irish Communists to-day.

* * *

Co-operative Strike.

THE STRIKE of Co-operative workers emphasises the fact that the emancipation of Labour cannot be accomplished under Capitalism. The so-called Co-operative Societies are but capitalist institutions trading and employing labour under capitalist conditions.

The producing Trade Unions of Greek and Roman times, as described by Osborn Ward and other writers, were institutions of quite another character. Though surrounded by the private-property system and subject to the exactions and even the persecutions of the capitalist state, they yet maintained a large measure of Communist brotherliness amongst themselves, buying collectively for their general needs, selling their produce collectively for their general benefit, maintaining the common table and the practical tical solidarity of mutual dependence. Looking back towards those ancient unions, and considering the Co-operative Societies, with their hired wage-workers, working precisely as though for an ordinary capitalist employer, one may almost be forgiven for despairing of progress for a passing moment. His productive organisat'on was to the Greek slave his means of salvation. When his organisation had bought him free of the master, his political status, his material and spiritual position was immensely improved. That is not the case with the workers who become Co-operative employees to-day: they remain wage-workers, subject to dismissal, without any claim on the industry; their wages on the whole are the same as in capitalist employ. The present strikers, remember, are resisting the attempt of the C.W.S. to regulate their wages by those laid down by a Trade Board for a sweated industry.

* * *

The Free State and its Prisoners.

THE ATROCIOUS TREATMENT of its political prisoners by the Irish Free State Government should open the eyes of all Irish men and women to the knowledge that a native Government can be as cruel and ruthless as the Government of the foreigner. Though some Irish Republicans persist in calling the Free State Government "this English Government," the majority must surely begin to realise that the system is at the root of the evil from which they suffer. Under Communism we shall have no Government punishing and dominating. We shall have organisation of the common services by those who do the work.

It is high time an Irish Information Bureau were started, to open the eyes of people in Britain to what is actually happening in Ireland, which is still more or less under the control of the Government we allow to govern us. The wounding of our defenceless women prisoners, the beating of a woman prisoner with a pole with an iron hook, the beating of an unconscious woman prisoner's face with the heel of her boot, the soldier jumping on a woman prisoner till she became unconscious, are atrocities comparable only to the atrocities of Russia under the Czars.

A People's Irish Information Bureau is overdue: it should be formed at once. We should be glad to hear from comrades who share this view.

* * *

Private Enterprise in the Steel Trade.

NO BETTER ARGUMENT for the sovietisation of industry could be found than the decision of the Committee of Executives of the United States steel industry, headed by Judge Gary, that for reasons described as "moral, social, and material," the twelve-hour day should be retained. A twelve-hour day, say the worthy and well-wishing Executives, is "less fatiguing" than an eight-hour day. The reason, we presume, must be that the worker engaged for twelve hours in the great heat and strain of the steelworks goes straight home to bed at the end of the shift, whilst the worker who is only employed for eight hours has some energy left to take him to the pictures or some other form of amusement, and is so improvident as to get himself tired. Judge Gary's Committee declares that a shorter working day is not desired by the steel workers themselves.

In presenting the report, Judge Gary made a speech, advising all to read the Bible, and declaring that the nation's laws should be based on holy writ and that it pays to take a Christian course.

* * *

Will the Entente be Broken?

THE ANGLO-FRENCH ALLIANCE exists only in name. The British Government maintains its pretence of neutrality in the Ruhr, which is merely an abstention from military participation in the invasion. The French Government makes a show of desiring the British Government to assist in bringing the Germans to an end of their passive resistance to the invasion, but the French Government is not displeased to be left with a free hand to crush the Germans on its own account, as it pleases, and for its own advantage.

The French Government declares that it will not discuss any German proposals for reparations till the German passive resistanee is at an end. The British Government avoids expressing opinion on that refusal by asserting that no terms yet proposed by Germany are satisfactory enough to be discussed.

Thus the two great rivals, France and Britain, face each other like two cats waiting to spring at each other or a mouse, if an advantageous opportunity presents itself. In the meantime, they are eyeing each other and finding inaction towards each other safest at present.

We need not expect a war in the immediate future, but we must recognise that the great rivals are preparing for a fight, and the fight will come unless the capitalist system be destroyed before the great antagonists have completed their preparations for a trial of strength.

The Workers' Opposition in Russia.

ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAY.

Price 6d. Post free 8d.

PRINTING.

Have you written a book or a pamphlet? Do you publish a paper? Do you require handbills, note headings, membership cards, or other printing? The "Workers' Dreadnought" can undertake the work for you.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

1,221,300 persons were on the live registers of the Labour Exchanges as unemployed on May 28th.

In the County of London on May 28th there were 100,107 men, 23,223 women, and 7,407 juveniles on the live unemployment register. On May 29th, 1922, the corresponding figures were 109,452, 25,576, and 6,498.

Men employed at the City Glass Bottle Works, Canning Town, were unemployed one week in five, and are refused unemployment benefit for that week. The Minister of Labour says he has no power to pay.

On May 31st 13,728 builders were unemployed in London.

The housing shortage remains acute.

AGRICULTURAL CREDITS.

On the Agricultural Credits Bill Mr. Jack Jones (Lab.), the principal Parliamentary wag to-day, protested that he represented "one of the most important agricultural constituencies." "We produce butter in Silvertown, but our principal harvest is empty condensed-milk tins. He complained that West Ham has to pay rates of 23/6 in the £ because of its poverty, whilst the agriculturalists who are to be subsidised have only to pay 13/- in the £. Called to order by the Speaker, he added that he knew nothing of the land question: "Six feet will be enough for me. I am paying for that 3d. a week."

NON-POISONOUS DOMESTIC GAS.

The President of the Board of Trade, in reply to questions, said it was watching the question of producing domestic gas on a commercial basis by the Tully process, which is claimed to be non-poisonous, or virtually so. No one suggested it might be the duty of our very costly Government apparatus to discover non-poisonous domestic gas and arrange for it to be substituted for the poisonous variety which has caused so many recent fatalities.

COAL AND THE RUHR.

South Wales coal has increased since the Ruhr occupation by from 3/4 to 20/- a ton, having risen in some cases from 27/6 to 47/6. Mr. T. Griffiths suggested that payment of the increased wage due under the current agreement proceeds exceed the agreed wages and profits, is evaded by arranging that the increased prices are drawn by agents appointed by the coal-owners, instead of directly by the coal-owners.

WAR GRAVES.

So far 679,906 British war graves have been tabulated, but the list is not complete; 1552,756 of these graves contain unidentified bodies.

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE.

This institution costs the country £30,000 a year.

POLICE INTIMIDATE NEWSAGENTS.

Mr. Morgan Jones (Lab.) stated on February 28th a police official called on a newsagent at Leamington Spa and inquired for the names and addresses of purchasers of the "Daily Herald" and other Labour publications.

The Home Secretary said: "On February 27th a police officer asked some local newsagents whether they sold certain publications, in which, I am told, the "Daily Herald" was not included, but made no inquiry as to the names and addresses of publishers. The inquiry was not made at the request of my Department."

There the matter was dropped, as far as the Gas House was concerned. We cannot, however, fail to realise that such inquiries are intended to intimidate newsagents in order that they shall not sell Socialist papers.

EUGENE SUE'S NOVELS.

The Gold Sickle and the Brass Bell: A Tale of Caesar's Gallic Invasion 3/6

The Iron Collar: A Tale of Slavery under the Romans 3/6

STRIKES AND HUNGER RIOTS IN GERMANY.

The hunger riots which started in the Ruhr, which were supposed to have been engineered by the French, have spread, according to the German newspapers, all over the unoccupied territory.

In Leipzig, on June 4th, after a demonstration of the unemployed, a number of them went to the Augustusplatz at 2 p.m. and stormed the Cafe Felsche. The tables and chairs on the verandah were thrown through the plate-glass windows. The customers beat a hasty retreat, so that no one was injured. Later a strong body of police arrived and barricaded the cafe. Groups of unemployed visited other parts of the town. There was a conflict with civilians outside Steckners, the modistes, and one man was injured. The unemployed also damaged the Ziegler Cafe, on the Promenade. Wholesale furriers remained closed until the afternoon. In the suburbs the Proletarian Defence Force is posted outside the large firms. The police are ready for emergency duty, as a repetition of the riots was expected in the evening.

Bautzen.

The Social-Democratic Party, with the Communist Party, and other organisations, issued a joint appeal for a demonstration against profits and the sliding scale.

On June 4th, in consequence of the refusal to accept the two proposals made at the unemployed demonstration last Thursday, the Burgomaster Niedner has issued an appeal to the citizens of Bautzen, in which he invites them to take part in a demonstration for the same purpose that afternoon, and to keep order and peace in the town; all shops, businesses and restaurants to be closed from 3 p.m. till Thursday morning. The sale of intoxicants during that time to be prohibited, infringements of this order to be punished with a fine of 300,000 marks and fourteen days' imprisonment. The Burgomaster begs every citizen to go home after the demonstration, and not to remain in the streets.

Breslau.

In Silesia an agricultural workers' strike has suddenly started, which embraces thirteen districts besides Breslau, and is spreading. The employers have declined to deal with the district leaders of the German Agricultural Workers' Union, and have gone to the head organisation in Berlin, where negotiations will take place, one of the representatives of the Ministry of Labour being present.

Ludwigshafen.

The printers' assistants applied for an increase of wages. The employers replied that they could not deal with them without the Mannheim shops, but have promised the workers an advance on the coming rise in wages. The workers have declined this offer, so that the "Pfatzische Landeszeitung," the "General-Anzeiger," and the "Neue Pfatzische Landeszeitung" cannot appear. (A partial strike of printers began in Ludwigshafen on June 4th, and the capitalist papers cannot appear.)

On June 2nd the United Socialist Party of Germany was holding a meeting at Feucht, a small town three hours from Nurenberg, at which Vogel, the Member of Parliament for Nuremberg-Furth, was speaking. There was some disturbance during the meeting, caused by the monarchist organisation of the Fascisti, the "Reichsflagge," but there was no violence. During the chairman's closing remarks the news suddenly spread through the audience that the Nurenberg police were there.

Herr Gareis, the guardian of law and order in the Republic, State Commissar for Nuremberg-Furth, had sent a company of police by the desire of the Reichsflagge. Without making any inquiries, without assuring himself whether there were any disorder, the leader issued the order to the company: "The Reichsflagge clear the courtyard," and he stormed into the meeting with his men.

"Hands up!" and a murderous fire into the closely packed assembly was the work of a moment.

The workers tried to escape, but were roughly pushed back and belaboured with indiarubber batons. Some jumped through the windows, but were treated in the same way by the Sipo and Reichsflagge alike. The result was one killed and several severely and lightly wounded. On the order "Hands up!" the audience was driven into the courtyard, and some were searched for weapons and had their names taken.

The Reichsflagge and Sipo acted together. Whoever the Reichsflagge leader indicated was arrested.

This is a typical example of what is happening in Bavaria.

The Munich Workers' Council's Meeting Against the Blood Regime.

June 2nd.—At the moment of the greatest political tension a general meeting of the Munich Workers' Councils was called. On the agenda stood sickness benefits and other "important" matters.

The meeting, by a large majority, was against the opposition of an incorrigible Trades Union leader to a Communist motion on a matter of business, who said it must be discussed on the political question.

After a report by our Comrade Buchmann, the meeting agreed that the catastrophal policy of the Cuno Government and its Communist baiting were a cover to veil over the capitulation to French imperialism, protested against the Bavarian exceptional decree, and demanded a Workers' Council emergency conference be called.

The resolution continued: "Let all forces be united in a fight against the Capitalist-Fascist attacks, and above all demands from the Trade Unions a common tackling of the economic fight in all industries, in order to bring about a wages settlement."

The Social-Democrat "Munich Post" up till now has remained silent on this most important decision of the Munich working class. With good reason: for the first public demonstration of the Munich workers since the Emergency Decree is in direct opposition to the Auer policy of the Bavarian V.S.P.D.

GERMINAL

Will contain a story
by
MAXIM GORKY
every month.

LEAKEY'S INTRODUCTION TO ESPERANTO.

La Lingvo Internacia.
4d., post free, from the "Dreadnought" Bookshop.

The General Confederation of Labour in Mexico—which has just affiliated to the International Working Men's Association—has organised a boycott of goods from the United States, to continue so long as the United States Government does not release the comrades who are imprisoned for refusing to take part in the world war. The Mexican Federation has 560 sections, so that the boycott should be extensive. Strikes have been declared in establishments belonging to citizens of the United States. Hostile strikes and demonstrations have taken place amongst the sailors at Vera Cruz, Progreso, and other ports where American ships load and unload.

The Federation of Havana (Cuba) has decided to undertake a great campaign in the working-class Press, uniting its voice with that of the I.W.W. to demand the release of its brothers who are imprisoned for political offences.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS.

The South African Government's Report on the Bondelzwarts' Slaughter has now been published, from which we give the following extracts:

"The right and justice to tax every inhabitant of the country, in order to help the development of civilisation, of which one and all are equally to share the fruit."

The Bondelzwarts were economically unable to bear the Government's taxation, so all they could do was to wait patiently on their land in Bulkok and the S.W. African Protectorate until the Government cleared them out with aeroplanes, bombs and rifles. The Government admits that this particular tribe is of a peaceable character.

"The Bondelzwarts are a tribe of Hottentots more or less pure, who migrated from Cape Colony to the Warmbad district of S.W. Africa about the end of the eighteenth century."

"By means of their characteristics, traditions and history, the Bondelzwarts have never easily adjusted themselves to a position subordinate to the white man, and trouble with them because of this might reasonably be expected by any administration."

"The relationships between the Bondelzwarts and the police was unsatisfactory, the latter regarding them as insolent and lazy, while in the eyes of the Bondelzwarts the police were unnecessarily severe and harsh."

"General Lemer does not agree that the mistrust, if any, was due to the fault of the police, but to the character of the Bondelzwarts."

The Government's main points to explain the "Native Rising" are:

"1 Unwillingness of the Administration to depart from the boundary conditions imposed by the German Government" (the former dictators of the same tribe).

"2. The imposition of an extraordinarily high dog tax, designed partly to compel them to work instead of depending on dogs to find them sustenance."

"The Commission regards the tax as unimposing such high taxes, for it says:

"The Commission reagrds the tax as unnecessarily high, and deprecates measures to compel labour."

"4. The relationship between the Hottentot servant and the European employer was far from satisfactory."

"5. Poverty was extreme, and had much to do with causing dissatisfaction."

The explanation of General Lemen, who does not agree on this point, is interesting: "The dog tax was not imposed with the special object of compelling the Bondelzwarts to come out and work."

"Poverty is largely, if not wholly, due to the Bondelzwarts themselves, who are temperamentally lazy and lacking the stimuli to improve their position."

The same old story. The workers are always lazy when the exploiters want to make them work for them. The Government of S.W. Africa was just as determined to force the coloured workers to be at the mercy of the mine magnates as Smuts was to drive the white mine-labourers out of the mines, in order to get cheap labour in. Has this murderous move on the part of the S.W. African Administration anything to do with the boom of Big Business by the great African boss, Smuts, to encourage newcomers from overseas to speculate in that territory? I wonder!

Many of the slaughtering company have regarded Morris, "the leader of the rebellion," as one of the main causes of the revolt; but the Commission is of the opinion that "people as a whole did not intend to assume hostilities at the time of Morris's arrival."

According to the Report, they make out that the "Revolt" did not start until after Sergeant Niekert's visit.

Lemmer disagrees with this, as well as with the previous point, for he says: "The people (the Hottentots) had been worked up prior to Morris's coming, to a frame of mind suitable for a revolt, and his coming was a signal for a rebellion." "I can find no justification for the conclusion that the words or action of Sergeant Niekert were the determining factor for the revolt."

The justification for the murdering of peaceful people without any warning is the most cold-blooded part of the Report:

"The Commission thinks that some warning should have been given to the Bondelzwarts at Gurdias of the intention of the Administration to use aeroplanes, and should have been accompanied by a formal demand for surrender. Such a warning would have enabled a separation of the fighting men from the women and children to be effectively made, and might have brought about a surrender of the native forces."

But again Lemmer did not agree and his objections take the line "that it was not known that women and children were mixed up with the fighting men," etc., etc.

Is not that a sufficient argument that the Hottentots deserved to be killed? Why warning? Why torrents of talk when quick action can be successful and "peace" obtained?

"The Commission feels that much of the sad plight of the natives in the Bondelzwart area is due to their ignorance. The education provided in the few schools of the missions has not been effective; there are no industries whatever. Each succeeding generation is becoming more degraded and more hopeless than the preceding one; and this deterioration and degradation will go on unless the Government of the country steps in with some beneficial scheme of educational and industrial and agricultural instructions."

The White Paper laid on the table of the House by the Administrator of S.W. Africa contains the following frank statement:

"The Commission refers to the extreme poverty of the people (Hottentots). Yet the Commission knows that I captured 12,470 sheep and goats, 800 cattle, and 700 donkeys.

"The law on the subject is that every native found wandering abroad without any visible means of support is an offender."

"I cannot agree with the Commission," the Administrator continues, "in its finding that warning should have been given to the Hottentots of the intended use of this weapon (aeroplanes). Not only would it not have had the slightest effect in inducing a surrender, but it would have defeated the whole plan of action.

"The only way open to me with my small force was to surround them in a concentrated position, and to force them to surrender by aeroplane bombardment.

"It is, of course, very regrettable that a few women and children were injured. This is unavoidable in native warfare.

"I am at a loss to know whence the Commission has received its information that the aviators were instructed to avoid being seen by the Bondelzwarts.

"I would urge that owing to the many and varied other duties pertaining to the office of Administrator, for which much time and labour are demanded, any shortcomings which may have resulted should be regarded as due, not to any lack of effort or earnest regard for the important responsibilities thrown upon me."

It is very clear from this Report that the main causes of the revolt were tyrannical oppression and the gradual expropriation of land and cattle from the Hottentots to meet the exorbitant dog tax—£4 10s. 8d. Their dogs were the only primitive tools they possessed by which to obtain a living, but the capitalists wished to force them to become their wage-slaves and industrial workers instead of letting them live in freedom on their own land.

UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES.

SPECIAL TO "WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT."

By Defense News Service.

Among those who persecute working men in the United States, the State of California, with its infamous criminal syndicalism law, stands prominent. And in California, the city of Los Angeles, with its port of San Pedro, has gone furthest and done most against Labour.

Los Angeles Courts and Police Force are ruled absolutely by a junta of capitalists, backed by a group of subsidised newspapers. No man—be he working man or wealthy Liberal—is safe once this plunderbund declares him dangerous.

In April 1923 the Marine Transport Workers' Industrial Union, I.W.W., struck, demanding the release of the political prisoners, better wages, and better working conditions. A week later the more conservative Federation of Marine Transport Workers of the Pacific Coast, an independent Union of dock workers, joined the strike. This tied up the port completely. Even the strike-breakers quit.

Locally the strike was popular. The Trade Unions supported it heartily. Smaller business men contributed what could be spared from the till. Restaurants fed strikers at cost—some on tick, to be paid when the strike was over.

There was no violence; even the police admitted that. But they got orders from the plunderbund to break the strike, and they set out to do it.

The first move was to seize the strike committee, some thirty of the more active leaders of the men, and prohibit all meetings, whether on public or privately-owned property. The prohibition failed. Thousands gathered on "Liberty Hill," held the advertised meeting, and paraded the town singing the "Red Flag." The police went mad.

"Arrest every idle man!" ordered Chief Oaks. Five hundred reserves rushed into the streets of San Pedro, and swept them clear. Ministers, men in the uniform of the United States Navy, women with babies in their arms, business men, tourists, strikers, all were seized indiscriminately, crowded into freight cars, and hauled to the city gaol in Los Angeles, thirty miles away. The police went through the town, entering restaurants and questioning diners: "Are you working?" If not, another victim! Owners of eating-houses that had fed strikers were dragged from behind their counters and charged with whatever came into the officer's head—one with blocking traffic!

The Dock Workers' Hall was raided, and twenty seized there. Men with large sums of money in their pockets, owning houses and automobiles, went with the navvy just off the job. Never had the little port of San Pedro known such a night of terror.

The arrested men lie in gaol, while the swamped Courts dispose of forty or fifty cases a day. Bail is set at £100 and more, even on charges of vagrancy. The prisoners starve. Breakfast consists of two spoonsful of hash and three pieces of butterless bread, with a drink called "coffee." The same hash and bread reappears at dinner. There is no supper. Food from the outside, heretofore permitted to prisoners held in the municipal gaols, is now barred.

Los Angeles Liberals generally, horrified at the reign of terror instituted, attempted to intervene. Upton Sinclair, prominent Socialist, and author of "The Jungle" and other well-known books on economic subjects, attempted to read the "American Constitution" aloud to an audience of police, far out of hearing of any strikers, to prove that the arrested men were being deprived of their rights as citizens. He, with three other prominent men, was seized, thrown into a police automobile, and taken to a town some twenty miles distant, where he was held incommunicado for nineteen hours, while his friends and attorneys searched vainly for him. Finally the truth leaked out through newspaper reporters, and the attorneys forced their way in, thus blocking a scheme to railroad him to trial without legal defence.

Sinclair and those arrested with him are charged with criminal syndicalism for "exciting discontent and disturbing the peace by discussing, arguing, orating, and debating certain thoughts and theories that are contemptuous." This charge carries a penalty of fourteen years at hard labour. The trial is set for June 15th, and Chief of Police Oaks declares that if he fails to secure a conviction he will arrest him again and again until he does get it.

Hundreds of men fill the filthy gaols of Los Angeles and San Pedro. Strike relief is broken up. Meetings are stopped. But the tie-up of the port is still 75 per cent. effective. Whether the strike is "transferred to the job," or fought out on the docks, the sailors and longshoremen of California have struck a telling blow in the fight to free the United States from the domination of the capitalist plunderbund that now rules in the name of democracy.

FROM AUSTRALIA.

We have 60,458 Trade Unionists unemployed in the Australian Commonwealth; that is, 8.6 per cent. of 703,000 Trade Unionists. This is apart from the unemployed non-unionists.

15/- a Week, Fifteen Hours a Day.

Immigrants are lucky if they get a job in the country working fifteen hours a day for 15/- a week. Even domestic workers should beware of coming here.

The Premier of New South Wales, when interviewed by the unemployed last December, was only able to promise temporary work to 1,275 men, to tide them over Christmas, out of 15,000 unemployed.

Hundreds of Italians came over at the end of last year. A Minister of State employed a few of them on his own property at rabbit trapping. The others had to return to Italy.

The employment exchanges give preference first to Australian ex-soldiers, then to married civilians. Ex-Imperial soldiers take their chance with the single men. Ex-Gordon Highlanders and Camerons are sleeping out in Sydney Domain with over 200 Australian unemployed. Immigrants arriving now will have to sleep out too.

The missions are doling out free meals. The night refuge provides homeless men with a shelter for 21 nights. It is overcrowded. The Salvation Army's sixpenny doss-house in Susan Street is full. Last winter the Salvation Army gave away cups of weak tea with a stale bun to the starving unemployed. The Governor issues rations only to unemployed married men with children, to the value of 14/8, in meat, bread, and jam or treacle. In some cases the State pays their rent.

Boys Wanted for the Navy.

The only chance for the British immigrant is to join the Navy. Australians will not join because they are obliged to sign on for twelve years. That is why British tars are in request.

The "Dreadnought Lads" and "Boy Scouts" from Britain will be obliged to serve in the compulsory cadet forces for several years. If they fail to attend the drills, they will be placed in a fortress for one or two months and made to drill till they have made up the drills they have missed.

The demand for immigrants is really that they may be used to undercut labour here, and also to act as cannon fodder. The Capitalists are declaring that Australia must protect itself against a possible Yellow peril.

We have had lots of Labour Governments here, but our conditions get worse and worse. One big Union seems our only hope.

Yours fraternally,

FRED SPILLMAN,
Hon. Organiser of
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COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT.

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Friday, June 15th.—8 p.m., The Grove, Hammersmith: Sylvia Pankhurst, N. Smyth.
Sunday, June 17th.—7 p.m., Brockwell Park: W. Hall, N. Smyth. 7 p.m., Finsbury Park: Sylvia Pankhurst, J. Welsh.

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"DREADNOUGHT" SUMMER SALE.

Comrades are urged to get busy collecting and making goods for the Summer Sale and Garden Party in aid of the "Workers' Dreadnought," which is to be held shortly. Books, pictures and drawings, furniture, clothing, farm produce, groceries, cakes, sweets, jams, toys, fancy goods, hats, shoes, tobacco, tools, etc., etc., will all be gratefully received.

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